

It is preferred the cover fabric used for the cover of the cushion of the present invention is soft, comfortable, and hypoallergenic, yet absorbent and also resistant to the adherence of stains and is highly resistant to breakage or tearing in any direction. It is further preferred the resealable closure mechanism 16 be of sufficient length to allow for easy removal of the cover for washing. Lastly it is preferred the cover be made of a fabric that can be conventionally laundered.

Please amend paragraph (0047) as follows:

(0047) (currently amended) An inner layer 30 is disposed closely adjacent the second intermediate layer 28. The inner layer 30 is formed from padding material providing support, loft and cushioning to the cushion. A fourth intermediate layer 36 is disposed closely adjacent the inner layer 30 and is formed from a waterproof, breathable, flexible material similar to the material from which the first intermediate layer 26 is formed. Finally a second covering bottom layer 34 is disposed closely adjacent the fourth intermediate layer 36 and is formed from the material which comprises the first cover 12.

Please amend paragraph (0048) as follows:

(0048) (currently amended) As previously mentioned a side panel composed of 14 and 38 is seamed to the first covering layer 12 by a stitched seam 24 as well as seamed to the second covering bottom layer 34 by stitched seam 22 and extends around the entire perimeter of cushion 10. The first intermediate layer 26 is sealed closed by sewing, gluing, thermal bonding or the like by seam 32, to fourth intermediate layer 36 forming a complete bond which encloses second intermediate layer 28 and inner layer 30 forming a waterproof barrier and retarding relative movement between said layer 28 and said layer 30.

Please amend paragraph (0049) as follows:

(0049) (currently amended) It should be understood by those skilled in the art that the cushion 10 of the present invention may be formed with the first intermediate layer 26 and fourth intermediate layer 36 may be a single sheet folded in half without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

In the Claims:

Please amend Claim 16 as follows:

16. (currently amended) The cushion as recited in claim 1, wherein said waterproof, breathable, and flexible protective liner is sealed closed around said padding layer of slow-recovery visco-elastic foam and said supporting padding layer in such a close-fitting and tight manner that the protective liner does not allow for the inner padding layers, of said slow recovery visco-elastic foam and said supporting stabilizing material to shift or move about within the said protective liner.

Please amend Claim 17 as follows:

17. (currently amended) The cushion as recited in claim 1 wherein said cushion has numerous overall geometric shape possibilities, as in having a generally square shape, as in having a generally round shape, as in having a generally rectangular shape, as in having a generally semi-circle, as in having a generally triangular, or as in having a generally pie-shaped shape.

Please amend Claim 24 as follows:

24. (currently amended) The cushion as recited in claim 1 wherein said cushion has numerous overall geometric shape possibilities, as in having a generally square shape, as in having a generally round shape, as in having a generally rectangular shape, as in having a generally semi-circular shape, as in having a generally triangular shape, or as in having a generally pie-shaped shape.

Please correct Claims 22-25 as follows:

These claims should be dependent of claim 19 and not claim 18. For examining purpose, the Examiner should consider these claims to be dependent of claim 19. The applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for pointing out this error.

Please add Claim 26 as follows:

26. (New) Orthopedic memory foam pet cushion, the pet cushion relieves painful arthritic joints, sore muscles and hip dysplasia of older animals and provides preventative care for younger animals, the orthopedic memory foam pet cushion comprising:

- (a) A padding layer of slow recovery visco-elastic foam;
- (b) a supporting layer, said supporting layer received under said padding layer of slow recovery visco-elastic foam for providing additional cushioning thereunder;
- (c) a protective liner of a waterproof, breathable, flexible material, said liner enclosing said padding layer of slow recovery visco-elastic foam and said supporting layer; and
- (d) a washable fabric cover, said washable fabric cover enclosing said padding layer of slow recovery visco-elastic foam, said supporting layer, and said protective liner.